



United States Attorney's Office  
Eastern District of Michigan

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United States Attorney

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## PRESS RELEASE

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[www.justice.gov/usao/mie/index.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/mie/index.html)

### DEARBORN MEN SENTENCED FOR FOOD STAMP FRAUD

Two Dearborn, Michigan residents, aged 37 and 45, were each sentenced to 30 months imprisonment today for committing food stamp fraud in excess of \$5,000 United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced today.

**HIZAM AND ABDO MOZIP**, brothers and owners of a meat market and medium sized grocery store in Southwest Detroit were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Lawrence Zatkoff.

The fraud arose when the **MOZIPS**, owners and operators of the New Michigan Food Center located at 8414-8418 Michigan Avenue in Detroit discounted food stamp benefits for cash and sold ineligible items such as cigarettes and a controlled substance called khat in exchange for food stamp benefits. The food stamp recipients would provide their electronic benefit transfer cards, which are like credit cards, at the convenience store. The defendants would enter a certain amount of charges, for example \$100, as authorized purchases of food items, but provide \$75 in cash to the recipient instead. Food stamp benefits are to be used only for eligible food products. During the 20 month period of April 2006 through November 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which funds the food stamp program, calculated the total of fraudulent food stamp transactions conducted at the New Michigan Food Center to be no less than \$817,000 by comparison with the rate of food stamp redemptions at comparable stores within a 1.71 mile radius of defendant's store. Additionally, when search warrants were executed upon the store premises 175 pounds of khat were seized before being cut and bagged for sale.

The investigation of this case has been conducted by Special Agents Mark

McClutchev and Robert Bell of the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ross I. MacKenzie and Rita Foley.